IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 15-18, 140, 141, and 142.

Please amend claims 7, 8, and 143-146.

Please add claims 151-163.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~an~~ binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound increases activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound that increases the activity of efp increases an activity of a L16 protein.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that increases ~~an~~ binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay.

9 to 142. (Canceled)

143. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~an~~ binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by measuring the intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is decreased by said binding, wherein said intrinsic fluorescence of efp is measured by a change in the fluorescence of the tryptophan residue(s) of efp, wherein said fluorescence of efp is measured and compared to the fluorescence intensity of efp in the presence of the compound, wherein a decrease in fluorescence intensity indicates binding of efp, wherein a decrease in said intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that said compound decreases said binding activity.

144. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~an~~ binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound decreases binding activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound which decreases the binding activity of efp increases ~~the~~ an activity of other protein(s) essential for the functioning of efp.

145. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~an~~ a binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound;

(b) determining whether said compound decreases the binding activity of efp; and

(c) determining whether said compound that decreases the binding activity of efp decreases ~~the~~ an activity of a L16 protein.

146. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound that decreases ~~an~~ a binding activity of prokaryotic elongation factor p (efp) comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp by a binding assay selected from the group consisting of gel electrophoresis, Western blot, filter binding, and scintillation proximity assay.

147-150. (canceled)

151. (new) A method for identifying a compound that binds to elongation factor p (efp) comprising contacting efp with the compound and detecting an increase in an intrinsic fluorescence of efp, thereby identifying the compound as a compound that binds to efp.

152. (new) A method for detecting binding of a putative efp-binding compound to elongation factor p (efp) comprising detecting an increase in an intrinsic fluorescence of efp in the presence of the putative efp-binding compound, thereby identifying the putative efp-binding compound as an efp-binding compound.

153. (new) A method for detecting binding of elongation factor p (efp) comprising determining an intrinsic fluorescence of efp in the absence and in the presence of a putative modulator, wherein an increased intrinsic fluorescence in the presence of the putative modulator is indicative of efp binding.

154. (new) A method for identifying a compound which modulates elongation factor p (efp) binding activity comprising contacting efp with a compound under conditions suitable for efp binding and detecting modulation of binding activity of the efp by the compound.

155. (new) A method of identifying a compound that binds to elongation factor p (efp) comprising:

(a) contacting efp with a compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound binds to efp.

156. (new) The method of claim 155 wherein said determining comprises measuring an intrinsic fluorescence of efp in the absence and presence of said compound, wherein an increase in said intrinsic fluorescence of efp indicates that said compound binds to efp.

157. (new) The method of claim 155 wherein said efp is isolated from a natural source.

158. (new) The method of claim 157 wherein said natural source is a prokaryotic organism.

159. (new) The method of claim 158 wherein said prokaryotic organism is a bacteria.

160. (new) The method of claim 159 wherein said bacteria is *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, or an *Enterococcus* species.

161. (new) A method of identifying a compound that modulates the binding of an elongation factor p (efp) binding partner comprising:

(a) contacting efp with binding partner with said compound; and

(b) determining whether said compound modulates the binding of said bound compound by measuring intrinsic fluorescence of efp and determining whether said intrinsic fluorescence is increased or decreased by said binding, wherein a change in said intrinsic fluorescence indicates that said compound modulates the binding of said bound compound.

162. (new) The method of claim 161 wherein said binding partner is an oxazolidinone.

163. (new) The method of claim 162 wherein said oxazolidinone is eperezolid or linezolid.